

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

Main claim 25 has been amended by insertion into it of the subject matter of now canceled claim 31, which originally depended directly from claim 25, and now canceled claim 32, which originally depended from claim 31. Thus this amendment merely consolidates claims and therefore is not introducing any new issue or opening up any new field of search. In addition this amendment places the case in better condition for appeal. Entry of this amendment after final action is therefore by right.

It is noted that original claim 4 was somewhat garbled when replaced by now-canceled claim 31 in that molybdenum was recited twice instead of molybdenum and titanium. Claim 32 referred to the mistakenly dropped titanium, so that this subject matter has always been in the case. This typographical error has been corrected now in amended claim 25.

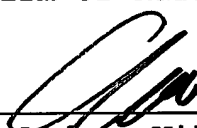
The main claim now recites how the blade is plasma-coated with nitrogen, carbon, molybdenum, tungsten and/or titanium foreign ions where the portion of molybdenum or tungsten ions is greater than the portion of titanium ions. It has been found, and claimed

from the beginning in this application that maintaining these proportions produces a particularly durable and strong blade.

The principal reference applied against claim 32, now incorporated in claim 25, was US patent 5,230,755 of Pierantoni. This reference does indeed show molybdenum, but not in the recited proportions. More particularly Pierantoni shows more titanium than tungsten. Thus this reference teaches away from the instant invention as defined in amended claims 25, making a §103 rejection of amended claim 25 impossible.

For these reasons all the claims in the case are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: None.